

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the title as follows:

~~--IMAGE COMPRESSION ENCODING APPARATUS AND IMAGE COMPRESSION~~
~~ENCODING METHOD, AND PROGRAM~~ AN IMAGE COMPRESSION SYSTEM WITH
CODING QUANTITY CONTROL--

Please amend the paragraph [0039] as follows:

-- Similarly to the DCT unit 22, the DCT unit 41 implements DCT every 8.times.8 blocks to thereby generate DCT coefficients to transmit them to respective quantizers 42-1 to 42-n. The quantizers 42-1 to 42-n quantize DCT coefficients delivered from the DCT unit 41 by quantization steps different from each other. Thus, it becomes possible to try the generated DCT coefficients by n quantization steps. Moreover, the respective quantizers 42-1 to 42-n respectively deliver the generated quantization levels to code quantity converters 43-1 to 43-n. The code quantity converters 43-1 to 43-n respectively convert the delivered quantization levels into code quantities every blocks to transmit them to the calculating unit 44. Namely, in conversion of code quantity at the code quantity converters 43-1 to 43-n, variable length encoding of quantization levels generated by the quantities 42-1 to 42-~~n~~ 42-n may be performed to output the code length.--

Please amend the paragraph [0064] as follows:

-- In the flowchart shown in FIG. 5, first, at step S11, processing loop 11 is set to initial value. Thus, processing shifts to step S12. At the step S12, assign(k) is calculated by the above formula by using total(j-1) and total(j) which are closest to target code quantity. Thus, processing shifts to step S13. At the step S13, values of assign (k) are determined with respect to all blocks to thereby judge whether or not total code quantity total_tmp corresponding to one ~~claim-frame~~ can be determined. Only in the case where total code quantity total_tmp is only determined, processing shifts to step S14. In the case where total code quantity total_tmp is not determined, processing of the step S12 is repeated.--

Please amend the paragraph [0070] as follows:

-- It is to be noted that this embodiment is not limited to the above-mentioned description. This embodiment may also applied to the configuration in which search unit such as binary search unit, etc. is not used like image compression encoding apparatus 5 shown in FIG. 6, for example. It should be noted that explanation of the image compression encoding apparatus 1 is quoted with respect to the same circuit components as those of the above-described image compression encoding apparatus 1, and their explanation will be ~~explained~~omitted.--

Please amend the paragraph [0090] as follows:

-- The example for realizing such prediction system 4 will be explained below. The prediction system 4 comprises, as shown in FIG. 8, a DCT path composed of a DCT unit 41, n quantizers 42-1 to 42-n and n code quantity converters 43-1 to 43-n, a DPCM path composed of m quantizers 51-1 to ~~51-n~~, 51-m DPCM units 52-1 to ~~52-n~~52-m and m code quantity converting units 53-1 to 53-m, and a calculating unit 54.--